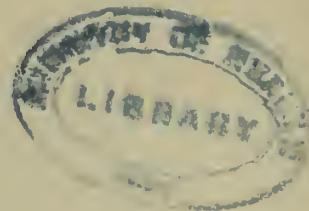


KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1947

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,



P A R T O N E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of district	2,837 acres
Population, mid-year, Registrar General's estimate	9,180
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947	2,578
Rateable value	£71,556
Product of ld. rate	£279. 3. ld.

These figures show a population increase of 270.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	131	107	238
Illegitimate	4	7	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	135	114	249
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 population - 27.1

Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) - 4.0

Rate per 1,000 population - 0.1

Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	61	46	107

Death rate per 1,000 population - 11.65

TABLE I

The following table gives particulars of the causes of deaths that occurred in the district :-

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	2	3	5
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	1	-	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Cancer	11	6	17
Diabetes	-	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	2	5
Heart Diseases	23	14	37
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	2	2
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Other respiratory diseases	-	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	-	3
Other digestive diseases	-	1	1
Nephritis	2	-	2
Premature Birth	1	-	1
Con. Mal. Birth Injury Infant Dis.	1	5	6
Road traffic accident	2	-	2
Other violent causes	2	3	5
All other causes	1	2	3
	61	46	107

The number of deaths registered during the year was 107 - 10 more than in the previous year; this yields a death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population as against 10.9 for 1946. The rate for England and Wales is 12.0.

Heart diseases provide the highest death rate for individual causes, 37 deaths having been attributed to such diseases; this is an increase of 9 on last year's figure. Cancer was recorded as the cause of death in 17 cases, 5 more than in the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY - UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	6	14
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	8	7	15

Death rate of infants under one year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births 60.24.
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 58.82
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 90.90.

The following table gives causes of infant deaths during 1947 classified into age groups :-

TABLE II

Causes of Deaths	Age Groups								All ages under one year		
	1 wk.	2 wks	3 wks	4 wks	5 mths	6 mths	9 mths	Under 1 yr.	Male	Female	Total
Gastro-enteritis		1				1			2	-	2
Pneumonia							2		1	1	2
Influenza					1				-	1	1
Whooping Cough					1				1	-	1
Congenital Debility	3		1	1	1				1	5	6
Prematurity	1								1	-	1
Accidental Death					1	1			1	1	2

TABLE III

The following table gives a general survey of infant deaths throughout the year :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Tot
Gastro-Enteritis									1	1			2
Influenza			1										1
Whooping Cough		1											1
Pneumonia	1			1									2
Congenital Debility						1		1			1	3	6
Prematurity								1					1
Accidental death	1		1										2

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths.

Comparison of Vital Statistics of Knottingley with total West Riding Urban Districts, West Riding Administrative County and England and Wales.

	Knottingley Urban District	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provision- al figures)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	27.1	21.6	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated population)				
All causes	11.7	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) *	0.44	0.16	0.16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.54	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases / (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.42	1.41	1.37	**
Cancer	1.85	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.25	4.23	3.98	**
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	60	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	12.05	5.17	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	-	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	-	0.88	1.07	0.91
Total	-	1.12	1.28	1.17

PART TWO

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

98 cases of disease were notified during 1947 - a decrease of 122 on the previous year's figures. Only 30 cases of measles were notified against 114 in 1946. There was no case of diphtheria.

The following table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Tot.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	9
Whooping Cough	9	6	1	8	1	5	-	-	1	-	1	-	32
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	2	-	6	1	14	5	-	-	2	30
Acute Pneumonia	7	1	4	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	4
Ophthalmia Neon.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	4

The numbers of children immunised during the year were as follows :-

Primary Injections

<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
86	65	151

Booster Doses - Total : 245.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

No. of cases in Register.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1947	38	8	14	24	84
Notified under Regulations of 1930 for the first time in 1947	6	2	4	-	12
Removed during 1947	2	5	1	-	8
At the end of 1947	42	5	17	24	88

P A R T T H R E E

SCABIES

The arrangements for scabies to be treated at the Pontefract Joint Isolation Hospital continues but fortunately there was little call upon this service during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

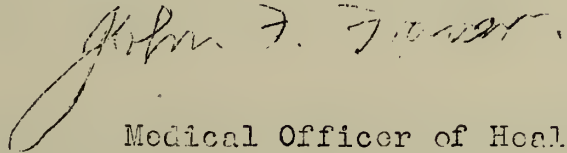
These are detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's Report and require little comment on my part.

The black spot is, of course, housing. However, every effort is being made to improve the housing situation in Knottingley but there is unfortunately no doubt that a large proportion of the population are living under conditions which are very difficult and in many cases appallingly bad.

Much of the time of the Sanitary Inspector has been devoted to housing matters and both he and I feel very strongly that a complete housing survey of the area is urgently necessary.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1947.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
KNOTTINGLEY.

July, 1948.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I respectfully beg to present to you my first Annual Report, covering the period 1st January to 31st December, 1947.

Mr. G. J. Laverick, the Council's Surveyor, has kindly supplied statistics for the first six monthly period, which was prior to my appointment. In passing I would like to record my thanks, both to Mr. G. J. Laverick and Mr. H. Brummitt, Clerk to the Council, for the help they have given me in taking over this department.

Under present conditions the primary problem is housing, both the erection of new houses and the reconditioning of existing houses. The majority of the time spent has been in the latter direction, needing almost full time attention. Although most desirable, a complete survey of housing conditions and overcrowding cannot yet be carried out with any effect, due to present national conditions and also to the fact that the rest of this department's work would have to be missed.

In quoting the above I would like to point out that the general routine work, such as inspections for nuisances, Food Inspection, Dairy and Cowshed Work, Scavenging and Cleansing, was not neglected. It would have been desirable though had more time been available for these duties.

I beg to express my very sincere thanks to the Members of the Council for their interest, consideration and support in the many duties carried out in this department which has for its primary object the improvement of the standard of health in the district.

The details of the works carried out under the various headings are as follows:-

Visits to Premises re. Nuisances (Primary).....	203
Visits to Premises re. Nuisances (Revisits).....	71
Visits to Work in Progress.....	63
Drains inspected and passed.....	10
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.....	154
Visits re. Rodent Control.....	86
Visits re. Dirty Conditions.....	35
Premises cleansed from Vermin.....	24
Visits re. Conversion of Privies.....	42
Visits to Schools.....	6
Visits to Shops.....	24
Visits re. Infectious Disease.....	26
Disinfections after Infectious Disease.....	4
Visits to Slaughterhouses (Food Inspection).....	30
Visits to Farms.....	20
Visits to Cowsheds.....	18
Visits to Dairies.....	38
Visits to Refuse Tips.....	68
Visits re. Cleansing.....	50
Sanitary Surveys (Special).....	2
Visits re. Housing Defects.....	166
Revisits re. Housing Defects.....	128
Visits to Work in Progress re. Housing Defects.....	55
Visits re. Special Enquiries.....	26
Visits to Factories.....	40

FOOD INSPECTION

Food animals continue, as during the war years, to be slaughtered at the central slaughterhouse in Pontefract. Private pig-keepers, however, for the most part, have their pigs slaughtered within the area. There is also a horse slaughter house in the area, the carcasses of which are used for human consumption. During the year 27 visits were made for inspection of carcasses slaughtered.

Routine inspections have been made to food premises in the area but only comparatively little has been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The only ice cream manufacturing premises in the district has now changed hands. Developments are in hand which should make a great improvement to the premises. The standard of cleanliness and manufacture is very satisfactory.

CLEANSING OF PREMISES FROM VERMIN

Complaints of verminous premises were few and only 24 cases were dealt with during the year. We treat with Coopers' Bed Bug Spray with satisfactory results.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The estimated number of water closets at the year end was 2,167 and the estimated number of privies was 57 and pail closets 14.

Arrangements are in hand for converting those privies which are suitably near sewer and a water supply.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

Registered premises and persons in the area are as follows:-

No. of Cowkeepers	11
No. of Wholesalers	4
No. of Retailers	11
No. of Cows	61
No. of Cowsheds	15

Satisfactory milk samples have been obtained in routine work.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

There is a separate system of public cleansing and the collection of salvage in force but arrangements are being made for a joint collection to take place. The number of workmen employed are as follows:-

2 Drivers
6 Labourers

Disposal of household refuse is at present by semi-controlled tipping but arrangements are being made for a fully controlled tip to be organised.

The following materials were collected and sold as salvage during the year:-

	Tons.	Cwts.
Paper	74	1½
Textiles	2	2
Bones	1	11½
Bottles etc.		12
Kitchen waste	24	13

Total income from above (estimated) £549-10-0d.

GENERAL

The services generally have been well maintained. Repairs have, from time to time been required to the vehicles and this is to be expected owing to their age. For the most part, our vehicles have given good service. I would beg to suggest, however, that the Council take a long view in this matter and consider the desirability of purchasing a new vehicle and in addition, the training of a spare driver for times of emergency.

HOUSING

Every endeavour has been made throughout the year to raise the standard of living accommodation in the area. Every complaint has, in some way, been attended to. The number of complaints have been abnormal due to the fact that many housing applicants endeavour to play upon their present conditions in the hope of a new Council House.

Routine inspections have been made from time to time to Council Houses. All are not as desirable as can be expected. It is hoped, however, that a strong view will be taken in the most serious cases for it is my opinion that this is the only way satisfaction and decent tenancies will be obtained.

Although new housing matters are within the province of the Surveyor's Department, I do think that from a Public Health point of view the following statistics should be quoted. It does show the very adequate way in which you are endeavouring to meet the very serious housing shortage:-

No. of Houses owned by the Council at 1/1/47.....	734
No. in course of construction at 1/1/47.....	14
No. completed up to 31/12/47.....	34
No. in course of construction at 31/12/47.....	206

The above does not include the number of private enterprise houses which have been completed during the year. May I record that this Council is doing everything within its power to encourage privately built houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There has been no serious outbreak of any infectious disease in the area. Unlike many other areas we were fortunate to avoid a serious outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Routine work of inspections, disinfection and the keeping of records has been done.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS

No routine smoke observations are taken as a general practice. Casual observations are, however, taken from time to time as occasion demands. There has been no nuisance observed under this heading during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

A great deal of work has been put in this year under the above heading. A complete survey of the district was made and a block treatment, in accordance with Ministerial instructions, carried out. All the sewers in the district have also been treated. Apart from this organised control, private premises are also dealt with periodically.

In conclusion may I thank you one and all for the way you have received me into your service and for the help you have given me in all ways.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Senneth Whiteray.
Sanitary Inspector.

